



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
Long-Term Control Plan Update
SRF # WW05 16 45 02**

Date: March 9, 2009

Target Project Approval Date: March 10, 2009

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the Hammond Sanitary District Preliminary Engineering Report addendum correspondence to the SRF dated December 19, 2009 will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a Preliminary Decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

The purpose of this notice is to seek input and comments on the SRF's preliminary decision that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted:

Mr. Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
317-232-8623; mhensche at ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Hammond Sanitary District
Long-Term Control Plan Work Plan Update
5143 Columbia Avenue
Hammond, IN 46320

SRF Project Number: WW 05 16 45 02

Authorized Representative: Dr. Michael T. Unger, Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Hammond is located in the northwest corner of Lake County.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The District needs to update its Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) work plan for its consent decree negotiations U.S. EPA Region 5. The LTCP addresses combined sewer overflows. No construction is associated with this project. This project will provide only planning engineering services. The actual construction projects, if needed, will be implemented later. The "no-action" alternative was rejected, since it would not address the need to update the LTCP workplan.

IV. PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

- A. Project Costs: \$35,000
- B. The Hammond Sanitary District will use unspent funds remaining from SRF loan WW 05 16 45 02 to conduct the planning engineering services. As of this date, \$13,944,026 remain unspent in that loan. Rates will not need to be raised to implement this project.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Since this project will consist only of planning engineering services, there will be no negative environmental impacts. This project does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This LTCP update project was discussed at the advertised meeting on January 13, 2009 of the Hammond Sanitary District board in the boardroom at the wastewater treatment plant. No comments from the public were noted at the meeting.